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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/618,867	07/19/2000	Jack Van Oosterhout	8371-105	2653

46404 7590 06/14/2005

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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center">Office Action Summary</p>	Application No. 09/618,867	Applicant(s) OOSTERHOUT ET AL.	
	Examiner Thierry L. Pham	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 3/9/05.
- Claims 1-22 are pending in application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-2, 3-5, 9-18, 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Endoh (US 6707566).

Regarding claim 1, Endoh discloses a method for multicast document printing (multicasting document printing, abstract, col. 2, lines 5-13) the method comprising:

- receiving document data to be printed at a host (i.e. PC 101, fig. 1-2), wherein said document data includes a number of copies (PC 101 includes printer driver 402 for inputting print instruction including number of copies of a print job, S602, fig. 7) of a document to be created from the document data;
- allocating (allocating a subset of a print job to each printers 102-107, fig. 1, col. 3, lines 20-24 and col. 7, lines 19-26) a subset of the number of copies to each of at least two corresponding separate printers;
- formatting (printer driver 402 for formatting the document data, fig. 4, col. 4, lines 65-67) the document data into a print job;
- embedding instructions (inputting individual printer print instruction via a printer driver user interface, fig. 6) specific to each of the corresponding printers (for each printers connected via a network, fig. 6, col. 5, lines 50-54) into the print job, the instructions indicating (instructing

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indicating number of copies for each printers connected via a network, fig. 7, col. 7, lines 19-31) for each of the corresponding printers the allocated subset of copies (i.e. number of prints, col. 7, lines 30-31) to be printed by that printer;

- multicasting (multicasting protocol for multicasting the entire print job, col. 3, lines 18-31 and col. 7, lines 35-40) the entire print job to the at least two separate printers (printers 102-107, fig. 1) connected by a common network to the host; and
- each of the at least two separate printers (each printers connected via a network receiving an entire print job, col. 5, lines 50-55) receiving the entire print job and the print job comprising routing information comprising a list of printer identifiers (list of printers Ids added to the print job instructions, fig. 5-7) and the assigned of number of documents (number of prints for each printer, col. 7, lines 30-31) for each printer.

Regarding claim 2, Endoh further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the host is a printer (i.e. printers 102-107, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 3, Endoh further teaches a method of claim 1, wherein the host is application software resident in a printer (printers 102-107 includes plurality of storage memory devices for storing application software, fig. 3). Please notes: It is impossible to print document data to application software; application software is a computer program and does not contain any storage and/or hardware device.

Regarding claim 4, Endoh further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the host is a computer (PC 104, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, Endoh further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the host is a scanner (scanner 1009, fig. 10).

Regarding claim 9, Endoh further teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting the print job to at least two separate printers (i.e. printers 102-107, fig. 1) includes reception and temporary storage at a store-and-forward device (RAM within PC 101, figs. 1-2).

Regarding claim 10: Claim 10 recite limitations that are similar and in the same scope of invention as to those in claim 1 except computer readable memory for storing computer programs. All computers/printers have some type of computer readable medium (i.e. RAM 203, fig. 2) for storing computer program, hence claim 10 would be rejected using the same rationale as in claim 1.

Regarding claim 11, Endoh further teaches the medium of claim 10, wherein the computer readable medium is read by a computer (PC 101, figs. 1-2).

Regarding claim 12, Endoh further teaches the medium of claim 10, wherein the computer readable medium is read by a printer (RAM 303 read by printers 102-107, fig. 3).

Regarding claim 13, Endoh further teaches the medium of claim 10, wherein the medium is a diskette (HD Drive 305, fig. 3).

Regarding claim 14, Endoh further teaches the medium of claim 10, wherein the medium is a compact disc (ROM 302, fig. 3).

Regarding claim 15, Endoh further teaches the medium of claim 10, wherein the medium is a network-accessible file (FD Drive 304, fig. 3).

Regarding claim 16, Endoh further discloses a network device (i.e. printers 102-107 and PC 101, fig. 1), comprising:

- a port operable (a port for cable connecting printers 102-107 to network 108, fig. 1) to connect to a network and receiving document (receiving documents from PC 101, fig. 1) data to be converted into a hard copy (i.e. via print engine 306, fig. 3) output with a predetermined number of copies (no. of copies, fig. 7) of a document to be created;
- a processor (PC 104, fig. 1) in communication with the port, operable to format the document data into a print job comprising a document and instructions (print instruction, fig. 6) to at least

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two printers (i.e. printers 102-107, fig. 1) assigning a number of copies (i.e. number of copies, fig. 7) of the document to each of the at least two printers (col. 4, lines 58-65), wherein the sum of copies to be created by the at least two printers (user manually sets number of copies to be printed by each printers, fig. 6-7) is substantially equal to the number of copies to be created; and

- a communication port operable to multicast (multicasting protocol for multicasting the entire print job, col. 3, lines 18-31 and col. 7, lines 35-40) the entire print job to the at least two printers (i.e. printers 102-107, fig. 1) connected to the network by a common network.

Regarding claim 17, Endoh further teaches the network device of claim 16, wherein the network device is a computer (PC 101, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 18, Endoh further teaches the network device of claim 16, wherein the network device is a printer (printers 102-107, fig. 1).

Regarding claim 20, Endoh further teaches a document printing method comprising:

- formatting (PC 101, fig. 1) a print job comprising a document to be printed and instructions specific to each of at least two printers to each print one or more copies of the document (PC 101 includes printer driver 402 for inputting print instruction including number of copies of a print job, S602, fig. 7);
- multicasting (multicasting protocol for multicasting the entire print job, col. 3, lines 18-31 and col. 7, lines 35-40) the entire print job over a network coupled to each of the at least two printers.

Regarding claim 21, Endoh further discloses the method of claim 20, further comprising receiving the entire print job at one of the at least two printers (number of prints for each printer, col. 7, lines 30-31), locating the instructions specific to that printer within the print job, and printing the number of copies specified in the specific instructions (PC 101 includes printer driver 402 for inputting print instruction including number of copies of a print job, S602, fig. 7).

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Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Spohn et al (JP 411296333A).

Regarding claim 22, Spohn discloses a document printing method comprising: receiving a multicast network transmission at a networked printer (printer for receiving multicast transmission instruction from host computer, par. 26-28); determining whether the multicast network transmission contains a print job (print job, par. 28); and when the multicast network transmission contains a print job, locating instruction specific to the networked printer (multicast instruction includes pages/copies to be printed at specified printers, par. 26-28) in the print job and printing at least one copy of a document contained in the print job according to the instruction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-8, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endoh as described in claim 1 above, and in view of Yokoyama (U.S. 6166826).

Regarding claims 1-3, 5-8, Endoh fails to disclose wherein the printer is a multifunctional printer comprising of fax, copy, and scan functions

Yokoyama, in the same field of endeavor for printing, teaches discloses a multifunctional printer comprising of fax, copy, and scan functions (col. 14, lines 26-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to replace printers 102-107 of fig. 1 of Endoh to a multifunctional as per teachings of Yokoyama because of a following reason: (●) multifunctional apparatus provides multiple functions; therefore, reducing hardware costs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Endoh with Yokoyama to obtain the invention as specified in claims 6-8.

Regarding claim 19, RIP is known in the art and widely available to the public.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-8, filed 3/9/05, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 4, 9-21 under 102(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art reference.

- Regarding claims 1, 4, 9-21, the applicants argued the cited prior art of record fails to teach and/or suggest each printers "receiving the entire print job" to be printed at the each printer.

In response, newly added limitation "receiving the entire print job" not cited in previously claims 1, 10, 16, and 20.

- Claim 22 remains rejected under Spohn (JP 411296333A). Please see rejection above for more details. Please notes: Applicants did not offer any arguments with respect to claim 22. Amended claim 22 does not contain limitations "entire print job"; therefore, it remains rejected under Spohn.

- Any rejection/objection not addressed above have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

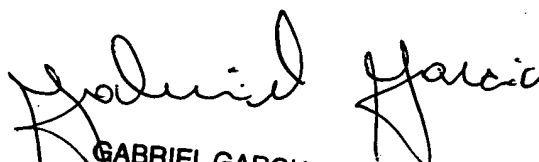
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 2727439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham

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